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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
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AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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STADIS

FOR AMB/DCM FROM ARA/AND (PATTERSON)

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS FROM THE ARA/AND ASDAR FOR
11/21/91. BEGIN TEXT:

PERU

(C) CANAS/PATTERSON MEET WITH ILD. DURING THEIR RECENT
TRIP TO LIMA, NSC STAFFER CANAS AND ARA/AND DIRECTOR
PATTERSON MET WITH THE MIGUEL GONZALES DEL RIO -- THE

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INSTITUTE OF LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY'S (ILD) HEAD OF
NARCOTICS. (HERNANDO DE SOTO WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY).
CANAS AND PATTERSON PUT DOWN CLEAR MARKERS THAT THE USG
SOON NEEDED TO SEE CONCRETE PROGRESS ON BOTH
ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

B1

VENEZUELA

(LOU) STUDENT VIOLENCE: ON NOVEMBER 19 STUDENT
DEMONSTRATIONS IN CARACAS TURNED VIOLENT, LEAVING A NUMBER
OF STUDENTS AND POLICE INJURED. THE PRESS BLAMED
OVER-REACTING POLICE FOR THE VIOLENCE, BUT LEFTIST
AGITATORS WERE REPORTEDLY ALSO A FACTOR. A STUDENT
REPORTEDLY WAS KILLED IN ADDITIONAL VIOLENCE ON NOVEMBER
20. COMMENT: THE STUDENTS OPPOSE CAP'S AUSTERITY
MEASURES. (KAPLAN)

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(C) COUP RUMORS: THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS PUBLICLY
DENIED RUMORS OF COUP PLOTTING. COMMENT: CHANCES OF A
COUP ATTEMPT ARE VIRTUALLY ZERO AND SUCH RUMORS ARE NOT
UNCOMMON IN VENEZUELA. THE RUMORS DO, HOWEVER, REFLECT
SIGNIFICANT POPULAR DISCONTENT WITH VENEZUELA'S ECONOMIC
SITUATION. (KAPLAN)

(U) HAITIAN REFUGEES: ONE HUNDRED HAITIAN REFUGEES HAVE
ARRIVED AT A VENEZUELAN REFUGEE CAMP. VENEZUELAN MILITARY
SUPPORT OF THE TRANSPORT OPERATION WAS GENEROUS AND
EFFECTIVE. (KAPLAN)

BOLIVIA

(U) MINING MINISTER CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL WASHINGTON
VISIT. MINISTER VALDA MET WITH INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN
AND INVITED HIM TO VISIT BOLIVIA IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH OF
1992. AT USGS, VALDA HIGHLIGHTED BOLIVIA'S ECONOMIC
STABILITY AND THE NEED FOR GROWTH AND REACTIVATION. VALDA
SAID THAT FROM 1988-1991 PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN MINING HAD
GROWN FROM 7 TO 68 MILLION. (SANCHEZ-CARLO)

ECUADOR

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(C) GOE/IMF AGREE IN PRINCIPAL TO STANDBY AGREEMENT: THE LETTER OF INTENT HAS BEEN SENT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE IMF FOR HIS APPROVAL. AN IMF BOARD MEETING HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 9 TO CONSIDER THE AGREEMENT. (WILSON)

(C) ECUADORIAN LABOR REFORM PACKAGE FINALLY PASSES CONGRESS.
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THE PACKAGE HAD BEEN STALLED SINCE MAY BY OPPOSITION FROM ORGANIZED LABOR AND SOME POPULIST AND LEFTIST POLITICIANS. THE REFORMS ARE NOT REVOLUTIONARY, BUT THEY ARE A FIRST STEP IN WHAT MAY BECOME A BROADER OVERHAUL OF ECUADOR'S PROTECTIONIST LABOR CODE. REACTION FROM BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. (WILSON)

(C) BUCARAM SAYS FORMER PRESIDENT HURDATO IS NOT TO BLAME FOR DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROLDOS. BUCARAM TOLD THE LOCAL PRESS ON NOVEMBER 19 THAT HE BELIEVES THE DEATH WAS PART OF A CONSPIRACY RUN BY INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRAFFICKERS HAVING CONNECTIONS WITH FORMER ECUADORIAN FORMIN BARRERA.

B1

COLOMBIA

(LOU) COURT DECONGESTION APPROVED BY MINI-CONGRESS. THE MINI-CONGRESS HAS PASSED THE COURT DECONGESTION LAW, A KEY PLANK IN THE GAVIRIA ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE AND MODERNIZE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS INITIATIVE, TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN JANUARY 1992, IS A MAJOR STEP TOWARD OPENING UP A RIGID AND CUMBERSOME SYSTEM. BY NOVEMBER 1992, THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO MOVE ONE MILLION OF THE 1,456,336 CASES NOW PENDING IN THE COURTS. (EUSER)

THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS FROM THE ARA/FO ASDAR FOR 11/21/91.
BEGIN TEXT:

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(U) THE HOUSE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ATTACH THE ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT TO THE COMPROMISE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT AND TO INSIST ON ITS INCLUSION IN THE FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT. THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE STILL IS NOT FULLY SUPPORTING THIS APPROACH.

END OF TEXT.

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